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CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

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NPIC REGISTRY

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S E C R E T NOFORN CITE CIA/IAS 6654.

THIS IS A CIA/IAS MESSAGE

ILLEGIB

25X1D 1. ANALYSIS OF [REDACTED] GIANT SCALE PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE PARACEL ISLANDS REVEALED SIGNIFICANT CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY IN THE CRESCENT ISLAND GROUP SINCE [REDACTED] THIS ACTIVITY HAS RESULTED IN INCREASED SEABORNE ACCESSIBILITY TO THREE ISLANDS AND EXPANDED FACILITIES ON AT LEAST TWO ISLANDS OF THIS GROUP.

25X1D

25X1D 2. ONE BERTHING FACILITY AND ONE ACCESS CHANNEL TO THE BEACH WAS OBSERVED ON PATTLE ISLAND. ONE ACCESS CHANNEL AND ASSOCIATED TURNAROUND AREA WERE ALSO OBSERVED ON BOTH MONEY AND DUNCAN ISLANDS. THE ACCESS CHANNELS AND ASSOCIATED TURNAROUND AREAS COULD BE IMPROVED THROUGH CONTINUED EXCAVATION; HOWEVER, AT THIS TIME THEY WILL PROBABLY PROVIDE ONLY LIMITED ACCESS TO THE BEACH AT ALL TIDE LEVELS.

25X1D 3. ACTIVITY ON MONEY ISLAND HAS GREATLY INCREASED SINCE [REDACTED] AT THAT TIME APPROXIMATELY 10 TENTS WERE OBSERVED ON THE ISLAND. BY [REDACTED] TWO BUILDINGS WERE IN AN EARLY STAGE OF CONSTRUCTION AND AT LEAST 35 TENTS WERE OBSERVED ON THE ISLAND. IN ADDITION, A ROAD WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION FROM THE BEACH ON THE SOUTH SHORE ADJACENT TO THE ACCESS CHANNEL AND TURNAROUND, TO THE WESTERN END OF THE ISLAND. EVIDENCE OF VEHICULAR TRAFFIC WAS ALSO OBSERVED ON THE ISLAND.

25X1D

4. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITY HAS BEEN OBSERVED ON THE SOUTHERN AND EASTERN SHORE OF PATTLE ISLAND. AN AREA IMMEDIATELY NORTH OF A JETTY ON THE EASTERN SHORE HAS BEEN EXCAVATED TO PROVIDE A SHELTERED BERTHING AREA. THE JETTY CONNECTS DIRECTLY TO AN EXISTING ROAD. AN ACCESS CHANNEL AND TURNAROUND AREA HAS BEEN EXCAVATED ON THE SOUTHERN SHORE OF THE ISLAND.

5. PROBABLE CABLE TRENCHING WAS OBSERVED IN THE SHALLOW WATER ADJACENT TO PATTLE AND ROBERT ISLANDS, POSSIBLY CONNECTING THESE TWO ISLANDS. THE PROBABLE TRENCHING WAS OBSERVED ON THE SOUTHWEST SHORE LINE ON PATTLE ISLAND LEADING TO THE SOUTHWEST. PROBABLE TRENCHING WAS AGAIN OBSERVED ON THE NORTHEAST SIDE OF ROBERT ISLAND. SCARRING WAS OBSERVED CROSSING THE ISLAND AND DISAPPEARING INTO THE WATER ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE. NO EVIDENCE OF TRENCHING WAS OBSERVED ON OR IN THE SHALLOW WATER NEAR MONEY ISLAND.

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